

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5360
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0539

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PBOR, CD, LY
SUBJECT: SEBHA II AGREEMENT: CHAD'S MALLOUM IN TRIPOLI

REF: (A) NDJAMENA 1340, (B) NDJAMENA 1367, (C) KHARTOUM 1554
(NOTAL)

1. LIBYAN LEADER MU'AMMAR AL-QADHAFI RETURNED TO TRIPOLI
APRIL 9 TO CONFER WITH CHAD PRESIDENT FELIX MALLOUM WHO WAS
ACCORDED PROTOCOL HONORS UPON HIS ARRIVAL HERE MORNING
OF APRIL 8. THIS MARKS FIRST TIME QADHAFI HAS RETURNED TO
TRIPOLI IN OVER ONE MONTH.

2. MALLOUM'S PRESENCE IN LIBYAN CAPITAL AND EARLIER MEETINGS
WITH QADHAFI'S DEPUTY, ABD AL-SALAM JALLUD, RECEIVED CON-
SIDERABLE MEDIA COVERAGE, AND THE USUALLY MUM PRESS LEFT NO
DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE CENTERED ON THE
QUOTE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN CHAD UNQUOTE.

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3. WE CAN ONLY CONJECTURE AS TO QADHAFI'S REACTION
TO MALLOUM'S INTERPRETATION OF SEBHA II. THIS
AGREEMENT HAS BEEN EXTOLLED IN LOCAL MEDIA AS
VICTORY FOR ALL AFRICANS AND AS LARGELY DUE TO
QADHAFI'S PERSONAL EFFORTS AND DIPLOMATIC SKILL.
WHEN NEWS OF CHADIAN DISENCHANTMENT WITH SEBHA BEGAN

TO CIRCULATE, ONLY PUBLIC LIBYAN REACTION WAS TO QUOTE FOREIGN NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES AND TELEGRAMS FROM WORLD LEADERS PRAISING THE AGREEMENT AND QADHAFI'S ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THE RECONCILIATION.

4. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT MALLOUM NOW BEING SUBJECTED TO SOME OF THE SAME PRESSURES EXERTED LAST MONTH ON CHAD VICE PRESIDENT DJIME. BUT WITH LIBYAN -- AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, QADHAFI'S -- PRESTIGE NOW INTIMATELY TIED TO SOME KIND OF INTERNAL CHAD SETTLEMENT, LIBYA MIGHT BE PREPARED TO MAKE SHORT-TERM TACTICAL CONCESSIONS TO MALLOUM IF LATTER ABLE TO STAND HIS GROUND. THESE CONCESSIONS MAY INCLUDE LIBYAN ACQUIESCENCE TO SMALLER ROLE FOR FROLINAT FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND AGREEMENT TO THE RETENTION OF FRENCH MILITARY "ADVISORS" FOR LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME.

5. BUT WHATEVER IS DECIDED IN TRIPOLI OR AT THE JUNE 7 MEETING FOR THAT MATTER, THE CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT LIBYA WILL NOT IN ANY CASE WITHDRAW FROM THE AOZOU STRIP (WHICH HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO LIBYAN TERRITORY ON SEVERAL LOCAL MAPS) AND WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR A PROGRESSIVE (READ FROLINAT) GOVERNMENT IN NDJAMENA AND FOR THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FRENCH FORCES.
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